

Veterans Home News

VOL. 13, NO. 4

VETERANS HOME FOUNDATION • CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI

SPRING 2006

Veterans Home recognizes volunteers

A regular corps of about 150 volunteers who work several times a month or more contributed the vast majority of the 20,945 hours served during 2005 at the Cape Girardeau Missouri Veterans Home.

These volunteers, and all volunteers with at least 24 hours of service during 2005 were honored at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Night on Friday, April 7th.

Home administrator Jan Rau said, "the work of our volunteers honors and serves Missouri's Veterans, whose dedication and sacrifices have preserved our nation and its freedom."

Total volunteer hours served at the State of Missouri-operated facility since the opening of the home in 1990 is 356,549 through the end of December, 2005.

Four were named Volunteer of the Year; they are: Gary Estes, Robert W. "Bob" Harper, Bob McLemore and Lois Woodford.

Some of the criteria for selection of Volunteer of the Year include: outstanding service on a long and continuous basis, served a significant number of hours, performs essential duties, represents the home well to the community.

Volunteers assist residents in several

ways, including delivering ice and water, operating the canteen, delivering mail to resident rooms, helping with the over 150 bingo sessions a year, and helping with other inside activities and outings such as fishing trips, serve on the Golf Tournament Committee and/or the Foundation Board.

Volunteers trained in the international Stephen Ministry visitation program made over a thousand personal visits with resident Veterans during 2005.

Volunteers are awarded a pin and 100 hour bar when they pass that number. New hour bars are awarded when additional 100-hour milestones are reached.

Two volunteers passed the 10,000 hour milestone during 2005, they are: Euil Trickey, Home Representative of the Masonic Service Association since the home opened who had 10,075 hours; and Barbara Yallaly, Home Representative of the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Department of Missouri since the home opened who had 10,045 hours.

The VFW Ladies Auxiliary Department of Missouri Home Representative since 1999, Jewell Lincecum, has 3,986 hours; and Dorothy Points, who started during 2004 as Home Representative of

Volunteers, see page 3



On the evening of the Veterans Home Volunteer Recognition Dinner the area was under a tornado watch and severe thunderstorms were in the area, causing reduced attendance. Only Volunteer of the Year Bob McLemore was available for the photo.

Other volunteers of the year for 2005 were Gary Estes, Robert W. "Bob" Harper and Lois Woodford.

To our friends and supporters

by Jan Rau



(NOTE: I shared this with employees in the Employee Newsletter. I thought it appropriate to share with a wider audience, since many of you are volunteers, family members and others who visit here.)

BANG! CLANG! CLATTER! SCREECH! SPUTTER!

There are sounds that are becoming almost routine to us after almost a year of renovation. We are even getting used to more people in the halls, more time to "go around" barricades, and seeing tools and ladders every-

Friends, see page 5

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Outback Steakhouse benefit luncheon nets \$5+ *Kowpasture Klassic is May 6, Golf Tourney June 2*

The Sunday 19 March benefit luncheon donated by Outback Steakhouse in Cape Girardeau earned just over \$5,000 for the Veterans Home.

Outback Steakhouse will become a Corporate Benefactor in the Veterans Home Flag Day Benefit Golf Tournament, joining Kohlfeld Distributing/Schindler's Tavern's Kowpasture Klassic in that level of support for the golf tournament.

Outback Steakhouse Managing Partner

Chris Jemison and crew put together an outstanding luncheon buffet. Veterans Home Golf Committee members sold all of the \$20 each or two for \$35 tickets for the second seating from 1230 to 1330 and most of the tickets for the 1100 to noon seating.

All of the food and all of the labor was provided at no charge by Outback. One hundred percent of the ticket sales was profit and the money will be used for the

general activities and other needs of residents of the Veterans Home. This money and, in fact, the spending of all donations, is supervised by the eleven member Veterans Home Foundation Board.

KOWPASTURE KLASIC

The 21st Annual Kohlfeld Distributing/Schindler's Tavern Kowpasture Klas-

Kowpasture Klassic, see page 2

**Veterans Home Newspaper
2400 Veterans Memorial Drive
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701**

VETERANS HOME NEWS

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by the Veterans Home Foundation
and made possible by advertisers and patrons.

MISSOURI VETERANS HOME

2400 Veterans Memorial Drive,
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
Phone (573) 290-5870 • Fax 290-5909
(Operated by the State of Missouri)

VETERANS RESIDENT COUNCIL

President Charles Clippard (Army)
Vice President Walter Vinyard (Army)

FOUNDATION BOARD

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Edwards, Rob Mayer, Lois Woodford, Betty E. Cato,
Bruce Austin. (Euil Trickey Honorary Member)

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM HOME REPRESENTATIVES

Masonic Service Association.....Euil Trickey
MSA Deputy Rep.Doyle Mouser
American Legion Auxiliary..... Barbara Yallaly
VFW Auxiliary.....Jewell Lincecum
MO State Society, DAR.....Dorothy Points

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Jan Rau, M.S. Administrator
Carl Knott, B.S. Asst. Administrator
Dr. Kennett Asher, DO..... Facility Physician
Maria Hanschen, BSN,RNC..... Director of Nursing
Sarah Goodin, RN.....Nursing Unit Manager
Sherri Oxford, RN.....Nursing Unit Manager
Ellen Wills, RN.....Nursing Unit Manager
Ruthann Lewis, RN.....Nursing Supervisor
Sue Peoples, BSN, MS.....Nursing Supervisor
Jean Sherrill, RN.....Nursing Supervisor
Scott Whitsel, RN.....Nursing Supervisor
Clemmie Geiser.....Housekeeping Supervisor
Lana Goodin, BSN, RN.....Staff Development Coordinator
Vanessa Smith, CDM.....Food Service Manager
Art Cox.....Plant Maintenance Engineer
Lori Hayden, MSW, LCSWClinical Social Worker I
Ken Lipps, BA.....Volunteers/Public Relations/Fund Raising
Lori Launhardt, CMA.....Accountant II
Cassie Zeilenga.....Recreation Director
Dennis Todd, CBBP.....Purchasing Dept. Head
Renee Hesselrode, ART.....Medical Records Supervisor
Victoria Scherer, PTT.....Head Physical Therapy
Holly Lovel, MTJ.....Personnel
The Rev. Lou Launhardt.....Chaplain Coordinator
Jason Lovel, BS, CDPIIS.....Computer Technician

MISSOURI VETERANS COMMISSION

Joseph L. Frank, S. Lee Kling, Bernadette A. Miller,
Carson Ross, Arvid West.
Ronald L. Taylor.....Executive Director

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Military Active Duty discharge status other than dishonorable.
2. Require some level of long-term health care.
3. Missouri resident 180 days at some time during life.

Fee based on income and assets.
Current maximum monthly fee is \$1,800.

**NO VETERAN TURNED AWAY
BECAUSE OF INABILITY TO PAY!**

2 • SPRING 2006

Kowpasture Klassic, from page 1

sic will be played Saturday 6 May from 0600 to 1700. The entry fee this year is \$160 for a team of four. Call Schindlers at 573.545.3709 or Mitch Miller at Kohl-feld Distributing at 573.243.3931 for entry information.

All prepaid registrants will get a Kowpasture Klassic Tee shirt, tickets for free beverages, burgers and a raffle ticket for the \$2,000 cash which can be used for a trip for four to Las Vegas.

Kenny Rogers Center staff, Veterans Home staff and Veterans Home Golf Committee members are selling the \$2,000/Vegas tickets at 2 for \$5.00.

Tickets are also available for a special Kowpasture Klassic Quilt made from tee shirts from past Klassics. Quilt tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. The Veterans Home Avenue of Flags will again be displayed and a memorial ceremony featuring the Marine Corps League Detachment 1081 Color Guard will be held around noon.

The Klassic, played with tennis balls and whatever you want to use for a golf club (even a wooden leg was once used) will be played on a nine hole course behind Schindler's Tavern and St. Lawrence Parish in New Hamburg. The land belongs to St. Lawrence Parish and its use is made possible through the generosity of St. Lawrence Parish.

Proceeds from the Kowpasture Klassic will benefit the Kenny Rogers Children's Center in Sikeston and the Missouri Veterans Home at Cape Girardeau.

FLAG DAY BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 10th Annual Veterans Home Flag Day Perpetual Trust Benefit Golf Tournament will be played on Friday 2 June at Bent Creek Golf Club in Jackson, home of the first annual tournament.

Sign in starts at 1000 hours with a shotgun start at 1230. Lunch is served from 1100 to 1200. A brief ceremony will precede play.

Attending as Honorary Co-Chairpersons, if work and schedules permit, will be 8th District Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson and 27th District Missouri State Senator Jason Crowell. Congresswoman Emerson has again provided the most cherished door prize for the tournament,

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VETERAN NEWS



Just after this photo was taken, the Veterans Home Golf Committee presented Outback Steakhouse with a plaque of appreciation for donating the Benefit Luncheon. From left to right are Harold Moore, Tournament Chairman; Chris Jemison, Outback Steakhouse Managing Partner; Neal Edwards, Tournament Founder and Chairman Emeritus; committee members Bob Williams, Caryn Michel, Pete Rhodes and Charles Hutson. Committee members not present for photo were Ron Bollinger, Co-Chairman; Dave Crader, Ray Drury, Ralph Ebersole, Sam McVay and Dick Decker.



Outback Steakhouse Managing Partner, Chris Jemison, center, accepts an appreciation plaque from the Veterans Home Golf Committee. Presenting the plaque is Neal Edwards, Tournament Founder and Chairman Emeritus. At left is Tournament Chairman Harold Moore.

a flag that has flown over the Capitol Building in Washington. The Chip-A-Ways Ladies Golf Association will again handle sign in and other duties.

Again this year, proceeds from the golf tournament, unless otherwise designated, will go to the Veteran Home Perpetual Trust Fund. The Perpetual Trust is an "insurance policy" to keep the level of support for future resident Veterans as high as present donations provide for current residents.

The decline in the WWII Veteran population is depleting the ranks of many Veterans groups which now provide over

80% of current donations to the home.

Of over 16 million Veterans of World War II, only around 3,500,000 were living as of November 2005 according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Donations provide money for activities, outings, entertainment, personal needs for indigents and many other needs of Veterans Home residents.

Last fall, \$10,445 interest money earned from the Perpetual Trust was used to put a fund drive over the top for a \$34,000 wide wheelchair lift van to take Veterans Home residents to medical appointments and on outings.

Several years ago the Veterans Home easily raised over \$45,000 through donations alone for a mini-bus to be used as the main vehicle for outings such as fishing, ball game, sightseeing and other trips.

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Volunteers, from page 1

the Missouri State Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution has 318 hours.

The DAR program recognizes the growing number of female resident Veterans with various activities, especially those who are mothers on Mother's Day.

Volunteers listed are those who served at least 24 hours in 2005 or went over an additional 100 hour milestone with less than 24 hours.

Serving 6,816 to 2,000 hours are Vergie Templeton, Naomi McClard, Louis Birkman, Jr., Frieda Howard, Lillian Birkman, Jim Tindall, Betty G. Cato, Dorothy Klein, Doyle Mouser, Bob McLemore, Al Mason, Jim Foster, Mildred Foster, Claude Estes, and Don Adams.

Volunteers serving 1,999 – 1,000 hours are Jim Harnes, Gary Estes, Fern Schlimme, Fern Shultz, Lois Woodford, Gladys Lawrence, John "Doc" Yalaly, Betty Hahs, Margaret Kracke, Neal Edwards, Glenneta Vogelsang, Robert W. "Bob" Harper, Charles Hutson, "Pete" Rhodes, Charles Shultz, John Powers, Clinton Gerler, Jim Englehart and Charlotte Hecht.

Those serving 999 to 600 hours include Johnny Schlenker, Barbara Slinkard, Betty J. Myer, Paul Bell, Robert "Bob" Landgraf, Caryn Michel, Myrna Powers, Eddie Schreiner, Marie Brantley, Lee Flor, Ginny Jones, Norman Seabaugh, Doris Meier, Brenda Turner, A. J. Seyer, Harold Moore, Pat Lynn, Carolyn Schreiner, Dale Wolfenkoehler, Bill

Harris, Doyle Schwitz, Lisa Brown, Jo Orr, Gladys Siebert and, Dorothy Siebert.

Volunteers with 599 to 500 hours are Pat Renard, Louie Organ, Ruth Strack Hunze, Buddy Parrish, Gil Clements, Melvin Eggiman, Stan Popp, Marjory Grindstaff, Bonnie Smith and Betty E. Cato.

Serving 499 – 400 hours are Bob Seabaugh, Steve Whitney, Rosalie Sides, Bob Williams, Sharon Snell, Fred Lineke and Ray Drury.

With 399 to 300 hours are Bill Engleman, Irene Tindall, David Crader, Carmen Simpher, Ron Bollinger, Willa Stanford, Steve Francis, Linda Hutson, Dorothy Points and Jimmy Whittaker.

Volunteers with 299 to 200 hours are Lucille Frederick, Leonard Adams, Marsha Parrish, Edna Wolfenkoehler, Wayne Maupin, Marie Hinkebein, Vivian Harris, Jane Henrichsen, Michael Lindner, Linda Boxdorfer and Jennifer Kirchhoff.

Serving 199 to 100 hours are Jerome Lindner, Lee Fulbright, Almaretta Rhodes, Dwight Barker, Darlene Fluegge, Lee Crites, Charles Travers, Byron Fluegge, Juanita Cook, Dorothy Seabaugh, Letty Green, Jack Lattimer, Betty McClain and Ralph Ebersole.

Fove resident Veterans are part of the volunteer corps. They serve as officers on the Resident Council, help set up for activities, assist with spiritual programs, work with plantings around the home and help in other ways. They are Hugh LeDure, Bill Walker, Charles Clippard, Walter Vinyard and Lillian Burgfeld.

Cameron Home LPN is State Employee of the Month

Tammy Pew, LPN III at the Cameron Veterans Home has been named State Employee of the Month for February 2006.

Veterans Commission Executive Director Ronald L. Taylor said, "This is truly an honor for Ms. Pew, the Cameron Veterans Home, the Veterans Commission and the Department of Public Safety. Please join me in sending congratulations to Ms. Pew!"

Tammy was recognized by Governor Blunt during an awards ceremony at the Capitol Building on March 8th.

In June of 2005 Tammy was selected as the Veterans Commission Employee of the Month and as the Department of Public Safety Employee of the Month in January 2006.

(NOTE: In the structure of state government in Missouri, the Veterans Commission is within the Department of Public Safety.)

Farmington AMVETS Auxiliary supports Veterans Home



AMVETS Auxiliary Unit 113 of Farmington recently donated \$1,000 to the 150-bed, state operated Missouri Veterans Home at Cape Girardeau.

Home Administrator Jan Rau, center, accepts the donation check from Shirley Hanks, left, and Sue Reynolds.

Donations provide prizes for bingo and other games, activities and outings, personal needs for indigent residents, home touch facility enhancements and other needs.

Our "bloomin best" get dinners for two at the home of Bloomin' Onions!

The following Veterans Home employees best demonstrated a compassionate and caring attitude for residents and near perfect attendance. They win dinner for two **DONATED BY OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE:**

- January:** Jean Gray, Nursing
Carl Knott, Administration
- February:** Christy Whorton, Nursing
Donna Reynolds, Social Services
- March:** Lois Withers, Nursing
Eva James, Activities

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Donations January 1 - March 31

Wal-Mart Super Center, Cape Girardeau: \$500 donation.
Veterans Associations, Farmington Correctional Center: \$150 donation.
American Legion Department of MO: \$500 donation.
Sons of AM VETS Post 42, Herculanum: \$400 donation.
Daughters of the American Revolution Missouri State Society: \$319.88 donation.
DAV Chapter 67, Dexter: \$600 donation.
Sharon Witty, Jackson: \$150 donation.
Charles A. Henshaw, Cape Girardeau: \$25 donation.
VFW Auxiliary Unit 6407, Kelso Township: \$100 donation.
VFW Auxiliary Unit 4320, Fredericktown: \$25 donation.
VFW Auxiliary Unit 11041, Palmyra: \$25 donation.
Lt. Col. (Ret.) Charles E. Woodford,

Cape Girardeau: \$60 donation.
VFW Auxiliary Unit 3838, Cape Girardeau: \$300 donation.
American Legion Post 63, Cape Girardeau: \$50 donation.
VFW Auxiliary Unit 4409, Harrisonville: \$50 donation.
VFW Post 10495, Jackson: \$50 donation.
VFW Auxiliary Unit 10495, Jackson: \$50 donation.
VFW Post 7183, Lilbourn: \$1,500 donation.
Family & Friends of Clyde Hudson: Memorial donations.
PACE Local 50164, Jackson: \$40 donation.
Bill Bowers, Cape Girardeau: \$50 donation.
Richard Johnston, Sellersburg, TN: \$100 donation.
Advance Knights of Columbus: \$150

donation.
Family & Friends of Bob Dodson: Memorial donations.
Family & Friends of Harold DeClue: Memorial donations.
Family & Friends of Jack Hinton: Memorial donations.
Family & Friends of Jim Pettigrew: Memorial donations.
Family & Friends of Clem Meyer: Memorial donations.
Family & Friends of John Venegoni: Memorial donations.
DAV Chapter 47, Dexter: \$400 donation.
AMVETS Auxiliary Unit 113, Farmington: \$1,000 donation.
AM VETS Department of Missouri: \$500 donation.
American Legion Post 133, Perryville: \$1,500 donation.
American Legion Post 63, Cape

Girardeau: \$300 donation.
The Bowlers to Veterans Link, N. Bethesda, MD: \$750 donation.
Mary McLain, Cape Girardeau: \$25 donation.
Masonic Lodge 68, Kennett: \$50 donation.
VFW Post 5368, Morley: \$100 donation.
VFW Post 4282, Perryville: \$2,000 donation.
Family & Friends of Oliver Dunn: Memorial donations.
Family & Friends of Bob Morgan: Memorial donations.
Family & Friends of Henry Creighton: Memorial donations.
Marine Corps League Detachment 1081, Cape Girardeau: \$100 donation.
VFW Auxiliary unit 7183, Lilbourn: \$2,850 donation.

Monthly Donations

American Legion Post 150, Ste Genevieve: \$100 donation.
VFW Post 3127, Chaffee: \$75 donation to electric razor fund.
American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Department of Missouri: Cheer Basket Program, monthly house party or outing, Christmas Gift Shop.
American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Unit Bingo Sponsors: Doniphan Unit 87, Hornersville Unit 362, Campbell Unit 109, New Madrid Unit 595, Sikeston Unit 114, Benton Unit 369, Chaffee Unit 389, Jackson Unit 158, Malden Unit 293, Perryville Unit 133, Sikeston Junior Unit 114, Ste. Genevieve Unit 150 (Unit 150 also holds annual coffee/donut hour.)
American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Unit Cheer Basket Sponsors: New Madrid Unit 595, \$100 per month; Perryville Unit 133, quarterly donations.
American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Unit Gift Shop Sponsors: Caruthersville Unit 88, Dexter Unit 59, Jackson Unit

158, Poplar Bluff Unit 153, Hornersville Unit 362, Benton Unit 369, Campbell Unit 109, Doniphan Unit 87, Sikeston Unit 114, New Madrid Unit 595, Malden Unit 293, Cape Girardeau Unit 63, Perryville Unit 133, Imperial Unit 283, St. Charles Unit 312.
American Legion Post 158, Jackson: Cash prizes and volunteers for fourth Tuesday Bingo, volunteers for monthly social hour and first Monday night Bingo, \$1,500 annual donation to American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Gift Shop.
Fruitland 4-H Club: Seasonal door decorations and baked goods.
Wal-Mart Supercenter, Cape Girardeau: New white goods clothing such as socks, underwear and tee shirts.
Masonic Service Association: Cash prizes and volunteers for afternoon bingo first Wednesday of each month.
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 63, Cape Girardeau: Monthly Birthday Party, seasonal decorations, special event

volunteer help.
Calvary Chapel SEMO, Tom & Diane Bruce, Cape Girardeau: Special Care Unit (A Wing) every Friday music ministry.
VFW Post 3174, Sikeston: Cash prizes and volunteers for every other month bingo.
American Legion Post 63, Cape Girardeau: Cash prizes and volunteers for second Wednesday Bingo.
Elks Lodge 639, Cape Girardeau: Cash prizes and volunteers for third Thursday night Bingo.
Elks Lodge 2652, Jackson: Cash prizes and volunteers for fourth Monday night Bingo.
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 158, Jackson: Fourth Friday coffee & donut day food and volunteers, summer bingo, special event volunteers.
DAV Chapter 16, Cape County: Cash prizes and volunteers for fourth Wednesday afternoon Bingo, and \$50 donation to activity outings fund.
VFW Post 5923, Camdenton: \$100 to indigent fund.
VFW Auxiliary Unit 5923, Camdenton: \$100 to indigent fund.
Telephone Pioneers Club: Bingo game prizes, treats & volunteers (quarterly)
VFW Post & Auxiliary Unit 10495: Holiday & seasonal wing decorations & tray favors, volunteers for 3rd Saturday Bingo.
St. Vincent De Paul Parish, Cape Girardeau: Weekly communion, Mass & Rosary.

Area United Methodist Churches: Wednesday morning church services.
First Assembly of God Church, Jackson: Sunday morning 1000 hours services, The Rev. Paul Bell, A. J. Seyer, Steve Whitney and Naomi McClard.
AMVETS Post 94, Sons of AMVETS Post 94, AMVETS Auxiliary Unit 94, Perryville: Cash prizes and volunteers for 3rd Tuesday evening Bingo.
VFW District 15, Southeast Missouri area: VFW Post 3838 donates \$2,600 per year for \$50 minimum prize for each Saturday Bingo. Other VFW District 15 Posts & Auxiliary Units donate an average of \$300 to \$400 for additional prize money on special occasions such as Saturday bingo sessions on or near Patriotic holidays. Included are Post 3127, Chaffee; 3416, Wappapello; 4294, Charleston and VFW Auxiliary Units 3127, Chaffee; 3416, Wappapello, 5900, Marble Hill; 6477, Poplar Bluff and 10495, Jackson.
VFW Auxiliary Unit 3838, Cape Girardeau: Additional \$50 prize money and volunteers for 4th Saturday afternoon Bingo, Father's Day and other special event volunteer help.
Cape Rock Chapter 60 Order of the Eastern Star: Volunteers for 1st and 5th Saturday Bingo.
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Jackson: Volunteer for Holy Communion each Sunday morning.
Elks National Service to Veterans Commission: Cash prizes, second Sunday afternoon bingo.



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Friends, from page 1

where! We aren't sure where a particular individual is sitting or for how long! While we may think that we have gotten used to these new sounds and sights, they have an effect on each one of us.

Noticing anyone being a little on edge lately? Wearing their emotions on their sleeves? This extra stimulation and crowded working conditions are taking a toll on both employees and residents.

There is not a lot we can do about our situation - but we do know that it is time limited. The contractors are still expecting to be finished with our project this October. Along with the negatives, we are seeing many positives already being enjoyed.

The extra light in the dining room has been a welcome relief for our residents.

The kitchen staff have a wonderful new space to work.

TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND ACKNOWLEDGE HOW FAR WE HAVE COME.

While we can't necessarily control our environment, we can control how we react to it. Let's determine to:

- Speak positively to each other.
- Give others the "benefit of the doubt".
- Learn to recognize individuals who are stressed and offer encouragement. Sometimes people don't expect you to fix something, but just listen.
- Help each other when we can.

EVERYONE is busy and doing more now than before we started the renovation. Things are easier if we work together.

Even though we are all feeling stressed, I thank you for working hard to make sure that our residents continue to get the best care available. Keep up the good work!

Lamplighters F C E entertain



In addition to raising money for materials and making 240 clothing protectors for the Veterans Home, several Lamplighters Family and Community Education Club members presented Valentine entertainment.

Family Comments

We are proud of our outstanding team of highly dedicated and skilled employees in all departments who honor our Veterans through superior nursing home care.

Here are some recent comments from family members

"We would like to extend thanks to the residents, staff and foundation Board for the beautiful plant. Your kindness and sympathy at this time is more deeply appreciated than any word of thanks can ever express. Please find enclosed donations in memory of John."

The family of John Venegoni

"We can't do anything but sing the praises of the Cape Girardeau Missouri Veterans Home. The love, care and kindness shown to Jack by the staff have been amazing to all of us. A big 'thank you' to all of you! Also, we appreciate the pretty plant you sent and those of you who were able to come to the visitation or funeral"

The family of Jack Hinton

"Thank you for the care you gave my father while he was a resident of your home. Your staff went over and above their duties. The patriotic banner he came 'home' with was very touching! The green plant is lovely."

Sandy Hackworth, daughter of Joe Huett

"Thank you so much for taking care of Hansel. We think you are angels!"

The family of Hansel Zahner

"Thank you so much for taking such wonderful care of Dennis. We are so thankful for each and every one of you! We will always remember how kind and caring every single one of you are. Thank you for the plant, that was very nice. We appreciate everything!"

The family of Dennis Braun

"Thank you so much for the care given to our brother."

The brothers and sisters of Charles Crumbaugh

"Thanks for the warmth, caring, compassion and respect you showed us and our Dad these past few years. We love you all!"

The Clemens Meyer Family

"Thank you so much for taking such great care of my daddy! He loved you all. I pray you all have a wonder Christmas and New Year. God Bless each and every one of you!"

Karla DeMichiel, daughter of Robert Slagle

"Thank you so much for the plant. I want to thank the staff and the Foundation for taking care of my dad. You people are wonderful!"

*Debbie Reiminger/
The Tom Kluesner Family*

"We can't begin to thank you all for everything that you did for Dad. You treated him with utmost respect and dignity 'till the very end. Thank you and we will miss all of you."

The Elvis Hoffman Family

"Please accept these gifts to be given away at your Employee Recognition Night and this cash donation to the Veterans Indigent Fund. We were most appreciative with of the care given Dave."

The Dave Koefler Family



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VETERANS HOME 2004 CASH DONATION RECOGNITIONS

\$1,000 - \$2,999

AL Aux Dist 14
AL Aux 114, Sikeston
AL Post 133, Perryville
AL Post 150, Ste Genevieve
AMVETS Aux 94, Perryville
Ex POWs Dept of MO
DAV Chapter 16,
Cape County
DAV Chapter 47, Dexter
Eagles Aerie 3775, Cape
Kiwanis Club of Cape
Art Theismann Memorials
VFW Aux 3838, Cape
VFW Post 5923,
Camdenton
VFW Aux 5923,
Camdenton

Over \$3,000

AL Post 158, Jackson
AMVETS Post 94, Perryville
Disabled Veterans Associations, OH
Elks Lodge 639, Cape
VFW Post 3174, Sikeston

VFW Post 3838, Cape
VFW Post 4282, Perryville
VFW Aux 7183, Lilbourn
VFW Post 7183, Lilbourn

\$500-\$999

AL Post 63, Cape
AL Post 218, Washington
AMVETS Post 48, DeSoto
Elks Lodge 2652, Jackson
Elks Lodge 2674,
Ste Genevieve
Ford & Sons Funeral Homes
Ed Radetic Memorials
Omer Lindman Memorials
Missouri Amphibious Navy
Masonic Service Assn
Procter & Gamble Co
VFW Post 3127, Chaffee
VFW Aux 4282, Perryville
VFW Aux 5368, Morley
Wal-Mart SuperCenter, Cape

\$150-\$499

A L Post 39, Park Hills
A L Post 109, Campbell
A L Post 114, Sikeston
A L Aux 133, Perryville
A L Post 369, Scott County
AMVETS Sons Post 42, Herculaneum
AMVETS Aux 42, Herculaneum
DAV Chapter 2, Kansas City
DAV Aux 47, Dexter
Elks Lodge 1721, Festus
Elks Lodge 2319, Sikeston

Correctional Center Vets Organizations,
Farmington
K of C Council 7063, Advance
Danny Byrd, Sikeston
Sharon Witty, Cape
Bill Bowers, Cape
Eleonora Brewton, Cape
Robert Amsler Memorials
William Holland Memorials
Leona Bucher Memorials
Clarence Staebel Memorials

Glen Sparkman Memorials
Ivis Waddle Memorials
Phillip Brazer Memorials
Carlston Bohnsack Memorials
Heartland Social Club
Shawnee Hills M B Church, Jackson
VFW Aux 3127, Chaffee
VFW Aux 3485, Doniphan
VFW Post 3485, Doniphan
VFW Post 3770, Mtn Grove

Honor Roll of Stars

VETERANS HOME 2004 CASH DONATION RECOGNITIONS \$25-\$149

A L 13th District
 A L Post 64, Ironton
 A L Post 253, Festus
 A L Post 265, Potosi
 A L Post 323, Wentzville
 A L Post 416, Farmington
 A L Aux 416, Farmington
 DAV Aux 2, Kansas City
 DAV Chapter 2, Park Hills
 DAV Aux 17, Jefferson City
 Evangelical U C of C Friendship
 Circle, Cape
 Elks Lodge 689, DeSoto
 Elks Lodge 1810, Chaffee
 Elks Lodge 2455, High Ridge
 Elks Lodge 2701, Perryville

40 & 8 Voiture 1321, Imperial
 Korean War Vets Assn of MO
 Shirley Reeves, Cape
 Albert Blattle Memorials
 Billie J. Lewis Memorials
 Ralph Glasscock Memorials
 Leona Bucher Memorials
 Henry Cole Memorials
 Lloyd Fish Memorials
 Calvin Walton Memorials
 Ray Davenport Memorials
 Brian Licare Memorials
 Wilmer Davis Memorials
 M/M Bill Randolph, Perryville
 M/M Don Koch, Mt Vernon IL
 Melba Taylor, Sikeston

David Willer, Jackson
 John Brune, Perryville
 Ramona Fitchpatrick, St Louis
 Glenda Crosno, Cape
 John Guild Chapt DAR
 M/M Benny Hinton, Jackson
 Lowes & Drusch Attys, Cape
 Agnes Martin, St Mary
 Inez Yeager, Perryville
 Betty Romig, Perryville
 Coy Farmer Memorials
 Bonnie Conway, Cape
 MOPH Aux 115, Kansas City
 MOC Pup Tent 5 Aux, St Charles
 VFW Past Commanders Org
 VFW Post 2177, Fenton

VFW Aux 2210, Ste Genevieve
 VFW Aux 2442, Miller County
 VFW Aux 3770, Mtn Grove
 VFW Aux 4320, Fredericktown
 VFW Aux 4409, Harrisonville
 VFW Post 5368, Morley
 VFW Aux 5527, Ironton
 VFW Aux 5896, Farmington
 VFW Aux 5900, Marble Hill
 VFW Post 5900, Marble Hill
 VFW Post 6043, Ellington
 VFW Post 6947, Bismarck
 VFW Post 7822, Puxico
 VFW Aux 10495, Jackson
 VFW Post 10495, Jackson

Leadership Award

Angie Sitzes, Certified Medical Technician at the Missouri Veterans Home was chosen by her co-workers to get the quarterly Leadership Award. Administrator Jan Rau said, "Angie demonstrates the principles of the Veteran Home's Achieve Global Training Program.

Those principles are: 1. Focus on the situation, issue or behavior, not on the person. 2. Maintain the self-confidence and self-esteem of others. 3. Maintain constructive relationships. 4. Take initiative to make things better. 5. Lead by example.



New Food Service Manager

Vanessa Smith is the new Veterans Home Food Service Manager, starting duties at the first of the year.

Vanessa is a Certified Dietary Manager. She brings a quarter century of experience to the Veterans Home working various capacities at three long-term care facilities in Cape Girardeau.



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WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR US LATELY VETERAN?

By: Lee Flor

It was spring in North Africa. The U.S. Army was building up its earliest tiny band of soldiers who would help save civilization. Two very different U.S. soldiers met there in a surprising way early one morning.

One was an enlisted man, a courier and messenger from Jackson, Mo., who was loyally carrying out his latest assignment. Following the time-honored military custom, he stopped his Jeep, got out and stood tall, saluting as the flag was raised over the Army post.

Nearby, another American soldier got out of his car and also stood at attention, saluting the flag. "Hello, son; how're you doing?" asked the tall officer, flashing his famous grin. "Hi, General Eisenhower. I'm fine; how are you doing?" replied the delighted technician fifth class.

General Dwight Eisenhower hopped back in his command car with its big radio and roared off to the airport, probably on his way to meet some other important officers coming to see how the Americans were faring in Algeria.

T5 Marvin Niswonger got back in his Jeep and continued on his way to deliver a secret message important enough to be sent out with an armed guard. He never asked or was told what these messages were. He simply carried out his duties, one of so many necessary cogs in our great military machine.

Mr. Niswonger was born at Oran in 1914. He attended Cape Central High School and then got a job at the Cape shoe factory, making \$10 a week. He soon met a wonderful girl who worked at the Jackson shoe factory, earning \$9 a week. The Niswongers got married in 1935.

Times were very hard, and the young couple put off having children for a few years. In 1942 he left his careful hand work at the factory behind, and went off to become a soldier.

Marvin never forgot his chance meeting with General Eisenhower. In fact, he regretted he hadn't had a dollar bill on him to get Ike's signature.

That was a grim time for the general. He was putting together an army from scratch. In a few weeks it would be meeting the Italians and crack German troops serving under General Irwin Rommel, the "desert fox."

One especially bad problem was that the Germans dominated the air. Ike's own air units were flying obsolescent planes like the P40, while the Nazis had the dreaded ME 109E, which was better and faster. Eisenhower created the 12th Air Force, with a group of fighter-bomber units. It was de-

signed to help the four divisions of the 2nd Army corps the beginning of his force in North Africa. The 12th Air Force had its headquarters at a French airport called Maison Blanche. That's where the T5 and the general crossed paths.

Mr. Niswonger was an intelligent 28-year-old when he breezed through basic training and went to North Africa. The army there was still disorganized, with young officers and over-aged colonels from World War I who were running mess halls, supply units, or whatever. It was hard to sort out who did what. Niswonger was older than the naive teenagers often sent to the infantry. He had scored high on his Army qualification tests, so before going overseas he was sent to a special radio operators' school at Madison, Wisconsin.

The school supplied operators for the fleets of B-17s and B-24s that were being assembled. They learned to send and receive 16 words of code a minute after 14 weeks at the school.

Mrs. Niswonger boarded a train and came to Madison to be with her husband. She got a job working at the University of Wisconsin while Marvin buckled down to learn International Morse Code. But after training, he was not sent to Combat Crew Training School.

The newly-created 12th Air Force and its officers were trying to assemble themselves in the field. They asked for 40 men to come to North Africa and help them set it up. The Army decided that if the 12th needed 40 men it would send 140, including Marvin Niswonger.

He was dispatched to Staten Island, N.Y. He and 139 others boarded a troop transport headed for Casablanca. At the depot there they were herded onto a narrow-gauge cattle train. This train was nothing like the Orient Express. It lurched out onto the single track railroad, bound for their new headquarters at Algiers. The trip took two days, and the soldiers had to stand the entire way.

At their new base, they saw that 12th Air Force had a bewildering bunch of older, out-of-date airplanes. But their officers weren't sure what to do with the men. At first, they divided them up into baseball teams-anything to keep them busy. Mr. Niswonger had his own approach toward helping to win the war. He violated the first law of survivorship--he volunteered.

T5 Niswonger went to his captain and said he wanted something serious to do. The captain asked if he could drive a car. "Oh, yes," replied the volunteer. He had owned a car all his adult life. So Marvin found his work. The captain assigned him to drive a Jeep at a message center. He was armed with a Colt 45, also rather out-of-date. It had been designed to shoot down Philippine tribesmen in 1903, and was notoriously inaccurate at anything over 50 yards. Off he went, into the desert, to deliver messages wherever they were

needed. Later, Mr. Niswonger also drove trucks up to 2 1/2 tons, hauling supplies, rations and personnel over some of the worst roads imaginable. He did not care. He was doing something useful and necessary.

The Germans sent at least one plane to bomb the Americans at Maison Blanche every day. They, of course, tried to shoot down these bombers, but that created still another danger. They had to defend themselves with 90 mm. antiaircraft guns which used huge shells around four feet long. After the shells exploded, pieces of their brass casings came hurtling back at the Americans at top speed. They could wreck a Jeep or a truck, and certainly could kill or wound men. The French Foreign Legion Cemetery at Algiers soon held a number of Americans, whose bodies were sent home after the war's end.

Mr. Niswonger kept right on with his duties, making friends with the officers and men of the 22nd Tactical Command. Later this group was essential in getting our 82nd Airborne into Sicily, and then on

to the Salerno beachhead in Italy.

At one point, when Mr. Niswonger's service unit was in Florence, Italy, one of his officers surprisingly asked him if he would like to take a trip back to Algiers. It seems that one of his friends had gotten permission to return there to be married. He needed a best man. Marvin was happy to oblige, so he flew back across the Mediterranean in a C-47 to attend the wedding.

This was an interesting experience, as Marvin's friend did not speak French and his bride did not speak English. The priest serving a Catholic church in Algiers married the couple in his living room. He thoughtfully provided a translator so the happy couple could understand the ceremony, and know what they were agreeing to!

The B-1 7s and B-24s kept right on pounding the Germans and Italians, and flew into murderous anti-aircraft batteries at Ploesti, Romania. As the 22nd Tactical Command kept moving up it flew out of many airfields in northern Italy. It was a very flexible organization, with one group of C-47s which flew into secret airfields to supply Marshal Tito's forces fighting the Nazis in former Yugoslavia.

The 12th fought in Asia as well as Europe. The British were fighting in hard-to-supply Burma. They suddenly found a valiant group of soldiers, many from India, surrounded at Impal in northern Burma.

Veteran, see page 11

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VETERAN NEWS

FINAL ROLL CALL

 Joe Huett Died: 12/30/2005	 Ivan Klughart Died: 1/2/2006	 Albert Giese Died: 1/25/2006	 William Kluesner Died: 2/18/2006	 Henry Creighton Died: 3/17/2006
 John Venegoni Died: 12/30/2005	 James Pettigrew Died: 1/6/2006	 Clyde Hudson Died: 2/2/2006	 Oliver Dunn Died: 2/23/2006	 Ralph Romig Died: 3/18/2006
 Charles Crumbaugh Died: 12/30/2005	 Jackson Hinton Died: 1/17/2006	 Robert Morgan Died: 2/5/2006	 Milton Shrum Died: 2/26/2006	 Paul Koehler Died: 3/25/2006
 Jerome Hinkebein Died: 1/1/2006	 Harold Declue Died: 1/20/2006	 Leroy Johnston Died: 2/11/2006	 Elvis Hoffman Died: 3/8/2006	 Alvin Hicks Died: 3/29/2006
 Hansel Zahner Died: 1/1/2006	Taps: Day is done, gone the sun, from the lakes, from the hills, from the skies. All is well, safely rest, God is nigh.			

ADMISSIONS

ADMIT DATE	NAME	BRANCH OF SERVICE
12/20/2005	E. Douglas Taylor	NAVY
1/3/2006	Marcellis Heberlie	COAST GUARD
1/10/2006	Walter Loyd	ARMY
1/11/2006	John Whelehon	ARMY
1/17/2006	Charles Pewitt	NAVY
1/25/2006	James Griffith	AIR FORCE
1/26/2006	Delmar Witt	ARMY
1/30/2005	Ivan Summers	ARMY
1/31/2006	Eldo Farrow	ARMY
2/6/2006	John Webb	ARMY
2/7/2006	Roy Robins	ARMY
2/8/2006	Lucy Wilson	ARMY
2/14/2006	Charles McLain	ARMY
2/14/2006	Mary McLain	ARMY
2/21/2006	Ervin LeGrand	ARMY
2/28/2006	Arthur Vann	ARMY
3/1/2006	James Abernathy	ARMY
3/8/2006	Oswin Jokerst	ARMY
3/16/2006	Gerald Young	COAST GUARD
3/20/2006	Charles Smith	NAVY
3/21/2006	Howard Tooke	ARMY

BIRTHDAYS

MAY			JUNE			JULY		
NAME	DATE	BRANCH	NAME	DATE	BRANCH	NAME	DATE	BRANCH
Walter Loyd	1st	Army	Clyde Farrow	2nd	Air Force	William Creech	2nd	Army
Rex Nations	11th	Army	Norman Keller	5th	Air Force	James Collins	3rd	Navy
Delmar Witt	12th	Air Force	Raymond Chamberlain	19th	Army	Oswin Jokerst	4th	Army
Richard Martin	15th	Army	George Shelton	21st	Navy	Ben Ashley	5th	Army
Daniel Hale	17th	Army	Gilbert Menz	22nd	Army	Elman Gibbs	6th	Navy
William Howard	17th	Navy	Rynor Stratton	26th	Army	Harold Crosno	10th	Army
Urban Winschel	17th	Army	Thomas Stafford	28th	Army	Bobby Pierce	10th	Marines
Mary McLain	25th	Army	Charles Clippard	29th	Army	Thomas Trout	19th	Marines
Paul Pruitt	28th	Air Force				James Gibbs	22nd	Army
						Faye Wadeking	28th	Army

Residents of the Month



January 2006
Jim Drickey

The Cape Girardeau Missouri Veterans Home Resident Council elected Army Veteran Jim Drickey as Resident of the Month for January 2006. Mr. Drickey was born in Spencer, NE and was a resident of Cape Girardeau before coming to the Veterans Home in March 2004.

Congratulations to Mr. Drickey on his selection as January Resident of the Month.



February 2006
Henry Slinkard

The Cape Girardeau Missouri Veterans Home Resident Council elected Army Veteran Henry Slinkard as Resident of the Month for February 2006. Mr. Slinkard was born in Bessville, MO and was a resident of Jackson before coming to the Veterans Home in September 2004.

Congratulations to Mr. Slinkard on his selection as February Resident of the Month.



March 2006
T.G. "Mike" Stafford

The Cape Girardeau Missouri Veterans Home Resident Council elected Army Veteran T.G. "Mike" Stafford as Resident of the Month for March 2006. Mr. Stafford was born in Zadock, MO and was a resident of Jackson, MO before coming to the Veterans Home in September 2004.

Congratulations to Mr. Stafford on his selection as March Resident of the Month.

Veteran, from page 9

The far-flung 12th Air Force sent its C-47 group to the aid of the British in India, where allied forces successfully held off the Japanese for four months.

Back in Europe, the war wore on and the 12th one day sent six B-24s on a milk run to the Danube River. They were to drop some naval mines into the Danube. The airmen didn't realize the great importance of their mission. After the war, they found out that the Germans had been running out of fuel. The only oil fields the Nazis controlled were the wells at Ploesti, Romania. To get the oil to Germany, they had to load it on barges and send it up the Danube. Those mines laid by the B-24s had the Germans running out of gasoline, and their much-feared tanks running out of fuel and sitting useless.

Mr. Niswonger and his buddies may have felt like small cogs in the vast machine, but they made it all possible. People like

Marvin, who begged for a useful job and then worked hard to see it through, were one reason for our Army Air Forces' success.

Mr. Niswonger was honorably discharged in October, 1945, and came back to his wife and his home at Jackson. He worked as a wholesale distributor, and the couple had two beautiful, intelligent daughters, Laraine and Darlene. Both their girls graduated from SEMO. They had four grandchildren, but lost one in a tragic car accident. Marvin's beloved wife died in 1996, after 61 years of a happy marriage. His daughters then wanted him to come and live with them, but the family decided that, because of his health, it would be best for him to move to the Missouri Veterans Home here.

Marvin is 91 years old now. His mind is sharp and his memory is good. He is one of our valued World War II veterans, receiving visits from his family and excellent care from the dedicated staff at our Cape Veterans Home.

Perryville VFW major Veterans Home supporter



Veterans Home resident and Perry County native Elvin Mattingly, left, accepts for the home a \$2,000 quarterly donation check from VFW Post 4282. Presenting the check is Clinton Gerler, member and current chaplain of Post 4282.

Gerler is a volunteer in the Stephen Ministry resident visitation program at the State of Missouri-operated Veterans Home at Cape Girardeau. As of 12/31/2005 Gerler had given 1,148 volunteer hours to the residents.

VFW Post 4282 has given \$29,350 total to the Veterans Home since it opened in 1990. Donations provide for activities, outings, entertainment, home-touch enhancements, personal needs for indigent Veterans and much more.

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Vietnam Vet bikers deliver items for Vets



A cart load of items requested by MVH residents was delivered by the Vietnam Vets Motorcycle Club Chapter F and T & C Motorcycle Parts of Benton.

Bringing the items were Bikers Gerald Grasso, sitting far left, and, behind Grasso standing from left are Tom McGowan, Cheri Parsons, John Beane and Jerry Simpkins.

Several residents are seated to the right from Grasso.

The Bikers fund the items from their Poker Run and annual antique car show/BBQ/auction and, this year, antique tractor show, and sale of ads on a calendar.

The Poker Run and other activities will be Sunday 7 May at the Veterans Home. The Poker Run starts at 0900 at L & D Patio in McClure and ends at the Veterans home at 1230.

The Blessing of the Bikes will be at 1230, the Tom Jones Auction Service Auction at 1300, with bike show at 1400. Throughout

the afternoon will be the Capaha Antique Car Club Show and the Egypt Mills Antique Tractor Club show.

BBQ brats, dogs, burgers, other meal fixin's plus soft drinks, bottled water and ice cream treats will be available throughout the afternoon.

Poker Run participants are admitted as part of their run fee. Others will need a \$2.00 wristband to be sold on the entrance drive to the Veterans Home.

Free wristbands will be provided for resident family members as they arrive or from the Activities Department prior to 7 May.

On duty employees will also get a free wristband.

Thousands of dollars has been raised by the event and is designated specifically to obtain items needed to improve the quality of life of individual resident Veterans.

For more information call T & C Motorcycle Parts at 573.545.9928 or Jerry

Newspaper Patrons

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